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performances, an improvement largely consisting in the substitution of psychological for purely mechanical modes of deception. The successful tricks of to-day are in their construction essentially psychological. They are arranged so as to precisely imitate the condition of affairs under which the most natural inference would be the true one, and yet the circumstances really make it as false as possible. Of course manual skill always has been, and still is, one of the essential requisites, but manual skill alone never makes a conjurer of the highest order. The by-play and the mode of presenting a trick so as to divert attention from the real doing of it are far more important; the truly great conjurer produces an atmosphere of confidence in what he says and does, and at the same time such a feeling of bewilderment and astonishment that the simplest trick is invested by the spectator with a halo of the miraculous. To illustrate these general principles a number of tricks are analyzed and a number of the rules of the trade are brought together, all tending to show the psychological insight of these adepts at deception. To simulate the ordinary forms of perception and inference, these must be correctly understood both objectively and subjectively, and hence the importance of the psychology of deception.

Recherches sur les mouvements chez quelques jeunes enfants. A. BINET.
Revue philosophique. Mars, 1890.

The observations of M. Binet cover four topics: the movements of walking, bilateralism, automatism, and reaction-times. The age at which a child begins to walk is not fixed and certain, but depends on its strength and many other circumstances among which the psychic character of the child (its power of attention) has a place. Binet like Preyer finds these movements not acquired by imitation, but instinctive. In a baby only three weeks old, so held that the soles of its bare feet received the stimulus of contact, he noticed the alternate movements of walking. In another child of about the same age the movements were not to be observed; in still others, however, even younger they were seen. Spontaneous movements in very young children are almost always bilateral, (simultaneous or alternate) as any one may prove to himself by counting, but are almost entirely unilateral in a child of three years. Some of the actions that Binet describes as *automatic*, e. g., the unconscious closing of the hand when an object is placed in the palm, seem more properly reflex. Between these and the automatism of double-personality cases, the author suggests a possible similarity, though he would not press it too far on so few observations; also between the preservation of attitudes (as when a child remains immovable in the midst of some action half performed, because its attention has suddenly been diverted) and the fixed attitudes of catalepsy. In the infant this splitting up of the psychic activities into independent groups would be a sign only that the fixed systematizations of the adult mind were yet to come. The reaction-times of children from three and a half to seven years old to sound, registered with a Marey tambour, were from .440 to .660 sec., against .140 for grown persons using the same apparatus, results similar to those reached by Herzen. The maxima and minima were .750—1.300 and 190—200 respectively, and the reaction-times quite irregular. The contraction made in response seems to last longer with the child than the adult and to reach its maximum amount less quickly. The most rapid rate of closure of the thumb and finger upon a rubber tube was for children 7-12 in four seconds, for adults on the average 18. Binet observed in a child less than three weeks old, who had never been allowed to fall, an instinctive dread of being held in an insecure position.

Education of Laura D. Bridgman.

Almost the only sources of first hand information in regard to the beginnings of Laura Bridgman's education are the reports of Dr. Howe,